

any standing would think of denying that responsibility; many of them, like *Collier's* and the *Ladies' Home Journal*, take pride in it and brag about it. Are the publications of these state medical societies any less reputable than private publishers? Should they be any less honest in looking after the interests of their subscribers? It is not possible to answer these questions in the affirmative. Then why do they publish such advertisements? It cannot be through ignorance, for a letter addressed to the Council would at once dispel the ignorance. Can it possibly be that societies of this character are willing to sell out for the dirty dollars of the nostrum maker? Perish the thought! It must be ignorance.

A number of physicians have complained of the activities of the Board of Pharmacy in administering what is known as "section eight of the poison law." This **WARNING TO PHYSICIANS.** portion of the law regulating the sale of poisons is a very important one to physicians. It specifically says that

"It shall be unlawful for any practitioner of medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine to furnish to or to prescribe for the use of any habitual user of the same, any cocain, opium, morphin, codein, heroin or choral hydrate . . . provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not be construed to prevent any duly licensed physician from furnishing or prescribing in good faith for the habitual user of any narcotic drugs who is under his professional care, such substances as he may deem necessary for their treatment, when such prescriptions are not given or substances furnished for the purpose of evading the purposes of this act."

The section seems to be unusually clear in its wording and plain in its meaning. A physician may prescribe for a drug habitue who is his patient, in good faith, a sufficient quantity of his drug. The prescription must be written in good faith; it must be for one who is the actual patient of the physician. It does not mean that any doctor may write one or more prescriptions for morphin for anyone who comes into his office and makes a strong plea for it. It does not mean that a doctor may sign a hundred or more prescriptions in blank and leave them at some drug store so that the pharmacist may sell the stuff under the protection of a "prescription"—and then divide with the dishonest doctor. Shocking as it may seem, this has actually been done by a licensed physician in this state, and a member of his county medical society. Some men seem to think that their rights or privileges have been invaded by this poison law; they have not; any physician has as much right to prescribe or give morphin, cocain, chloral, etc., honestly and legitimately as he ever had. It is claimed that detectives from the Board of Pharmacy have come into doctors' offices, told heartrending tales, and been given prescriptions which were afterward used in evidence against the doctor. This may or may not be true, but it certainly is true that in nearly, if not quite every case

where a physician has been arrested under this law, he has plead guilty and paid his fine. The Secretary of the Board of Pharmacy advises us that they never make an arrest on a single violation of the law; it is only when one of their inspectors has obtained several prescriptions for one or other of the proscribed drugs, that arrests are made. It is also true that a good many physicians are far too careless in believing what they are told and in giving prescriptions for narcotic drugs. Then there is another class that is composed of dishonest physicians; they sell prescriptions of this sort for a price; sometimes they sell the drug itself—one licensed physician in the South made a living solely by selling morphin and cocain to habitues. Truly, a nice occupation. Remember the poison law and do not be inveigled into violating it by the hard-luck story of some one who is not your patient.

To say that cheap work is poor work is but another way of phrasing the Biblical statement that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." If he is not, then is he **CHEAP WORK POOR WORK.** a mighty poor laborer and unworthy of any hire.

In this world (whatever may be the case in others) one gets just about what he pays for; "something-for-nothing" is a beautiful dream. All of which is apropos of a card announcing, on one side, the location of the "Pacific Wassermann Laboratories," and on the other giving a scale of prices for various forms of laboratory work. This "laboratory" is, we are advised, operated by an ex-hospital steward and another whose term of enlistment has not expired. The prices quoted are absurd; they would make a competent man blush. "Wassermann test, \$5.00. Widal, \$1.00. Urine, chemical and microscopic, \$1.50. Feces, for typhoid bacillus, \$3.00. 606 prepared, \$2.00." And so on down the list. It is obvious that if some physicians did not patronize these cheap people, they could not pay office rent and have cards printed. And yet it is difficult to imagine what sort of physician would place any dependence upon the reports from men who are probably trained only in the routine work of preparing material for examination but, without medical education or experience, could not possibly be competent to give an opinion of any real value on their findings. One can but pity the case of the patient who places himself in the hands of a physician who will, in turn, place his own reputation and possibly the future of his patient, in the hands of such cut-rate gentry. Cheap work is poor work.

In spite of all that has been said or can be said in favor of a sane Fourth of July celebration, there will be, if not always, at least for a long time to come, a certain number of idiots who will shoot or wound themselves or others in their desire to make a noise on that day. It is a well recognized fact that tetanus is quite apt to occur after gun-shot or toy-pistol wounds, and it is also recognized that the prophylactic use of tetanus antitoxin is greatly reducing the death rate